CITATION GUIDE

MLA Style

INTRODUCTION
The Modern Language Association (MLA) reference style is widely used in the humanities. In MLA style, you should first briefly credit sources with parenthetical citations in the text of your paper, and then include a complete citation to each source in works-cited list at the end of your paper.

For additional information and examples, consult the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th ed. (available at the Reference Desk on Level 3 of the Main Library) or Ask a Librarian.

PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS
Generally, a parenthetical citation includes the author’s last name and the page number(s) of the information used.

Short Quotations
Place the author’s name either in parentheses or within the sentence. For example:

According to Jones, “Students often had difficulty using MLA style” (199). OR
She stated, “Students often had difficulty using MLA style,” but she did not offer an explanation as to why (Jones 199).

Long Quotations
Place long direct quotations (more than four lines) in a block. Omit quotation marks. For example:

Jones’s study found the following:
Students often had difficulty using MLA style, especially when it was their first time citing sources. This difficulty could be attributed to the fact that many students failed to purchase a style manual or to ask their teacher for help. (199)

Summary or Paraphrase
If you are summarizing or paraphrasing an idea from another work, indicate the source by the author and the page number(s) in your parentheses. For example:

According to Jones, MLA style is a difficult citation format for first-time learners (199).

THE LIST OF WORKS CITED
Provide specific information to each source cited in preparing your research paper, such as author, title, and publication information, in “Works Cited” list.

BOOKS

[A Book by One Author] (MLA 5.5.2)

[A Book by Two or Three Authors] (MLA 5.5.4)

[A Book by More Than Three Authors] (MLA 5.5.4)

[A Book with an Editor] (MLA 5.5.3)

Note: To cite a book with two editors, use “eds.”

[A Book Chapter] (MLA 5.5.6)

[An eBook] (MLA 5.6.2c)
PERIODICAL ARTICLES

When citing an article from a full-text database such as EBSCOHost or ProQuest, provide the information about the original print article, and add information identifying the online database and the date of access.

[A Magazine Article] (MLA 5.4.6 and 5.6.4)

Last, First M. "Title of Article." Title of Magazine Date: Page(s). Format of Material.


Note: A periodical article from an online database may not include page numbers. If pagination is not available, give "n. pag." as in example for Baird.

[A Scholarly Journal Article] (MLA 5.4.2 and 5.6.4)


[A Newspaper Article] (MLA 5.4.5 and 5.6.4)

Last, First M. "Title of Article." Title of Newspaper Date, edition: Page(s). Format of Material.


Note: If an article starts on B1, skips B2, and runs on to B3, write only the first page number, followed by a plus sign: B1+.

WEBSITES (MLA 5.6.1 – 5.6.3)

Contributors. "Title of Web Page." Title of Overall Website. Website Publisher, Date. Web. Date of Access.


Note:
1. MLA no longer requires the use of a URL. However, if required by your instructor, include it in angled brackets < > at the end of citation.
2. Use "n.p." if no publisher is available.
3. Use "n.d." if no publishing date is given.

NON-PRINT MATERIALS

[Television/Radio Program] (MLA 5.7.1)

"Title of Episode." Contributors. Title of Program. Network. Call Letter, City, Date. Medium.


[Sound Recording] (MLA 5.7.2)


[Film] (MLA 5.7.3)

Title. Contributors. Distributor, Year of release. Medium viewed.


[Musical Score] (MLA 5.7.5)

Composer. Title. Year. City Published: Publisher, Year Published. Medium.


Note:
3 4

For further assistance, please visit the Reference Desk or call 3411-7363 (Main Library), 3411-2714 (CML) or 3411-3170 (SMCL). The HKBU Library’s homepage is <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/lib>.